



February 6, 2007

H.R. 512 – Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of American Latino Heritage Act

Floor Situation

H.R. 512 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Xavier Becerra on January 17, 2007 and has not been considered by any committee in the 110th Congress.

H.R. 512 is expected to be considered on February 6, 2007.

*Note: In the 109th Congress an identical bill, Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of American Latino Heritage Act of 2006 (H.R. 2134), passed in the House by voice vote on September 29, 2006. The companion bill in the Senate (S.2475), introduced by Sen. Ken Salazar (D-CO) on March 29, 2006, was not considered on the Senate floor.

Summary

H.R. 512 would establish a commission to study the creation of a National Museum of American Latino Heritage. The Commission will consist of 23 members, 19 of which will be voting members and 4 nonvoting members. Members of the Commission will be appointed as follows:

Voting Members

7 Members will be appointed by the President
3 Members will be appointed by the Speaker
3 Members will be appointed by the House Minority Leader
3 Members will be appointed by the Senate Majority Leader
3 Members will be appointed by the Senate Minority Leader
Total 19

Nonvoting Members

1 Member will be appointed by the Speaker
1 Member will be appointed by the House Minority Leader
1 Member will be appointed by the Senate Majority Leader
1 Member will be appointed by the Senate Minority Leader
Total 4

Members of the Commission are to be selected for their level experience and expertise in museum administration, Latino history, non-profit fundraising, as well as previous public service.

The Commission will develop and implement a fundraising strategy and examine the costs, impact, governance and organization of the museum, and how to engage the American Latino community in the process.

H.R. 512 authorizes appropriations of \$2,100,000 for the first fiscal year and \$1,100,000 for the second fiscal year.

The Commission will report back to the appropriate House and Senate Committees no later than 24 months after the date of the Commission's first meeting.

The Commission will terminate no later than 30 days after submitting the final version of their report.

Cost

CBO estimates that the federal government would spend about \$3 million over the next three years to establish the commission and to develop a plan for the proposed museum. Most of this amount would be spent for feasibility studies and other research.

Staff Contact

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